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## CHILE.

*Report from Iquique—Suspect plague and smallpox—Epidemic plague in Pisagua.*

Consul Winans reports, March 25, as follows:

The inclosed report on the sanitary condition of the neighboring port of Pisagua was furnished to me at my request by a merchant still at that port. So far as I am able to learn, the report is true in every detail.

The sanitary authorities declare that there is no disease in Iquique of an epidemic character, but I learn from confidential sources that there are many cases of what appear to be bubonic plague, as well as some cases of smallpox.

## BUBONIC PLAGUE—PISAGUA.

“Plague made its appearance here during the latter part of January, 1905, and quickly spread throughout the city. The local authorities have not only been negligent in not taking measures to prevent its entrance into this port, considering that plague has existed in an endemic state for some time previous—in Iquique on the south and in Arica on the north—but also in attempting to conceal the fact that the first cases were pronounced bubonic cases.

“The entire absence of anything approaching sanitation, the squalidness and filthy condition of the working people’s houses, and the deplorable uncleanness of the lower classes explain the violence with which the disease has taken possession of the city.

“After the appearance of the first cases an enormous mortality was noticeable amongst the rats, but this decided indication of the presence of bubonic plague was referred to other influences. Owing to the want of facilities for treating the stricken people, every possible ruse was employed to avoid being taken to the lazaretto, which at the beginning meant to the cemetery, and in consequence people attacked with the disease would continue walking about the streets, many of them falling dead at their work. Others have hidden themselves in their houses and their bodies have not been discovered until several days after death, and very often in a horrible state of decomposition.

“A commission of business men was formed to treat the sick people and to disinfect the town, and funds were collected in the city to build a new lazaretto. The latter was sadly needed, as for want of a suitable building many of the sick were compelled to lie in the open air with no protection from the sun’s rays.

“The Santiago government on being appealed to at once initiated work by asking for the resignation of the commission. Here, unfortunately, their efforts ceased, as far as taking determined steps to wipe out the epidemic are concerned.

“Two of the doctors attending the sick have been taken down with the disease, and two have left because disinfectants, serum, and medicines were not to be secured.

“Doctor Middleton, who was sent from Santiago by the board of health to inform them as to the nature of the disease, has not yet finished his report. It is believed that if the measures recommended by him are carried out the disease can be exterminated, but it is feared that before these measures can be initiated there will be no one left in the city.

"Nearly all the working people and a number of the smaller merchants with their belongings have left for other places. All work in the bay has in consequence been suspended. Several ships have been ordered from here to load in other ports, and it is expected that the remaining ships will soon receive like orders. All ships to arrive will receive instructions to immediately proceed to Iquique.

"The statistics up to March 21 are as follows:

Normal population (census of 1895) .....	3, 635
Present population (estimated) .....	400
Excluding patients in the isolated hospitals .....	132
Total deaths known to date .....	133
Patients discharged as cured .....	45

"The average number of new cases per day since the appearance of the plague has been 1 per cent, of which 45 per cent have proved fatal.

"The reports that the disease is declining are not true. The number of new cases per day is less, but this is owing to the small number of people now residing here. Many who have fled have carried the disease to other places.

"On the 3d of this month there were 18 dead bodies lying at the lazaretto, with no one to bury them, and these dead bodies were in the same place as the sick.

"Doctor Middleton, who was to make a report on sanitary affairs, has left for Arica."

#### CUBA.

#### *Report from Cienfuegos—Inspection of vessels—Malarial fever on steamship Falco from Coatzacoalcas.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon McMahon reports, April 25, as follows:

During the week ended April 22, 1905, 4 vessels were inspected and bills of health issued to ports in the United States. One of these vessels, the steamship *Falco*, arrived at this port from Coatzacoalcas on April 11, and while in this port 2 members of her crew developed mild attacks of malaria. She was held in quarantine during the entire time she remained here.

Aside from this there was no other sickness on board of any of the vessels.

#### *Report from Habana—Inspection of vessels.*

Surgeon Wertenbaker reports, April 24, as follows:

Week ended April 22, 1905.

Vessels inspected and bills of health issued .....	29
Crew of outgoing vessels inspected .....	983
Passengers of outgoing vessels inspected .....	670

No quarantinable diseases have been reported in the city or island during the week.

#### *Report from Matanzas—Inspection of vessels—Scarlet fever and measles—Increase in number of mosquitoes—Mortuary statistics.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Nuñez reports, April 25, as follows:

During the week ended April 22, 1905, bills of health were issued to 4 vessels leaving this port for the United States in good sanitary condition.